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- (21) Application No. 43697/72 (22) Filed 21 Sept. 1972 (19)  
 (31) Convention Application No. 7 112 968 (32) Filed 21 Sept. 1971 in  
 (33) Netherlands (NL)  
 (44) Complete Specification published 5 June 1974  
 (51) International Classification A47B 57/28  
 (52) Index at acceptance  
 A4B 7E7 7F  
 (72) Inventor JOHANNES STOLK



(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO A DEVICE FOR STORING  
 ARTICLES SUCH AS POSTAL ARTICLES

(71) We, DE STAAT DER NEDERLANDEN, TE DEZEN VERTEGENWOORDIGD DOOR DE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL DER POSTERIJEN, TELEGRAPHIE EN TELEFONIE, of 12 Kortenaerkade, The Hague, The Netherlands, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to a device for storing articles, such as postal articles, provided with a number of pigeon-holes, the spaces between the partitions of which are variable in width.

In one device of this kind the bottoms of the pigeon-holes of the device described are made of a flexible material, fixed to the lower edges of the partitions. In this way all pigeon-holes are connected one to the other, thus forming a whole.

The device according to the invention is considerably simpler, whereas the suitability has remained unchanged. This simplification is due to the fact that the bottoms of the pigeon-holes are formed by a number of fixed guide rods and that adjacent partitions are connected one to the other exclusively by flexible means. So the bottoms made of a flexible material have been dispensed with and a number of fixed horizontal guide rods have been arranged in such a way that they can take the function of the bottoms. Now the maximum spaces between the partitions are exclusively determined by the flexible means, formed e.g. by chains, nylon threads and the like.

The device according to the invention is less liable to wear and tear, the partitions can generally be shifted more easily, no rubbish collects in the pigeon-holes, and a damaged partition may be replaced very easily.

In order to simplify the removal and the exchange of the partitions even more, they may, at least at their lower edges, be provided with cut away portions closing round

the guide rods in such a way that the partitions can be lifted from the guide rods. Consequently, only the chains have to be loosened from a partition in order to remove this partition.

It is to be recommended to have the rear-edges of the partitions co-operate with one or more guide rods not lying in the plane of the bottom. In this way the partitions are better supported, so that no additional measures, for example broadening the partitions at the cut away portions at the lower edge, need to be taken to secure a vertical position of the partitions. It is a fact that systems with guide rods at the rear-edges of the partitions are well-known, but in these systems the partitions are supported exclusively by these guide rods.

According to a preferential embodiment the spaces between the guide rods forming the bottom increase from the fronts of the pigeon-holes to their backs. A relatively small space between the guide rods is required for small postal articles, such as visiting-cards. However, these articles are always put in the foremost part of the pigeon-holes. For larger postal articles, e.g. periodicals, reaching as far as the end of the pigeon-holes, a greater space between the guide rods will suffice, so that less guide rods will be adequate.

The invention will be elucidated with the help of the drawings in which Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a device according to the invention;

Fig. 2 a vertical cross-section of the device;

Fig. 3 a partition on a larger scale; and Fig. 4 a partition provided with ball-chains seen from above.

The device shown in Fig. 1 comprises a table 1 with four rows of sorting pigeon-holes 2 on it. The bottoms of the pigeon-holes are formed by fixed guide rods 3, having the shape of round bars according to the drawing. The rear-wall of the pigeon-holes is formed by a fixed board 4 and a bar

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the guide rods in such a way that the partitions can be lifted from the guide rods. Consequently, only the chains have to be loosened from a partition in order to remove this partition.

It is to be recommended to have the rear-edges of the partitions co-operate with one or more guide rods not lying in the plane of the bottom. In this way the partitions are better supported, so that no additional measures, for example broadening the partitions at the cut away portions at the lower edge, need to be taken to secure a vertical position of the partitions. It is a fact that systems with guide rods at the rear-edges of the partitions are well-known, but in these systems the partitions are supported exclusively by these guide rods.

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shaped guide rod 5. The partitions of the pigeon-holes are formed by the walls 6 as shown by the embodiment of Fig. 3. This wall is provided with the cut away portions 7 at the lower edge for the guide rods 3, forming the bottom of the pigeon-holes and an L-shaped cut away portion 8 for the guide rod 5. It is clear that the wall 6 can easily be put on the rods 3 and 5. The walls 6 are connected one to the other by means of ball-chains 9 (Fig. 4), which are pressed through the slits 10 into the apertures 11. By adjusting the chains the maximum space between the walls 6 can be changed in an easy way. The front edges of the walls may be provided with plates 12, indicating e.g. house-numbers. The cut away portions 13 give a better view of the contents of the pigeon-holes and facilitate the taking out of the postal articles.

The shape of the cut away portions 7, 8 as shown in Fig. 3 requires that to position a wall 6 on the rods 3, 5 it has first to be moved horizontally and then vertically. If all the cut away portions are made parallel one to another as shown in the upper row 14 of Fig. 2, one slanting movement will suffice. However, the wall as shown in Fig. 3 is better located in its own plane.

30 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Device for storing articles, providing

a number of pigeon-holes separated by partitions the spaces between which are variable in width, in which the bottoms of the pigeon-holes are formed by a number of fixed guide rods and adjacent partitions are connected to one another exclusively by chains, threads or like flexible means.

2. Device according to claim 1, wherein the partitions, at least at their lower edges, are provided with cut away portions which engage the guide rods in such a way that the partitions can be lifted from the guide rods.

3. Device according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the rear edges of the partitions engage with one or more guide rods disposed other than in the plane containing the rods forming the bottom.

4. Device according to any of the preceding claims, the spaces between the guide rods forming the bottom increase from the front to the back of the pigeon-holes.

5. A device providing a number of pigeon-holes for storing articles substantially as described with reference to the drawings.

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FIG.1

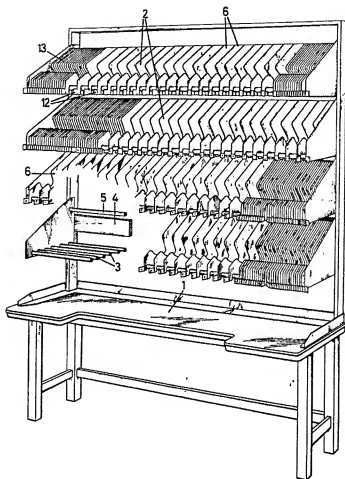


FIG 2

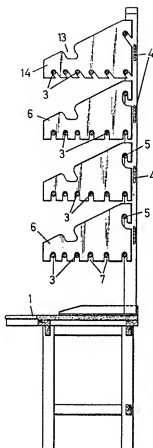


FIG.3

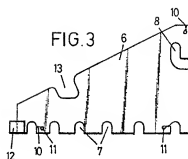


FIG.4

